



SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

MAY 2013 EDITION Visit us on the web at: www.seatpleasantmd.gov

ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Community Forum on Fire and Safety</i>	2
<i>Tax Differential Concept</i>	4
<i>Exercise Safety</i>	5
<i>Where Do You Live?</i>	6

City of Seat Pleasant

Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

Council President

Kelly Porter

(At-Large Councilmember)

Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

Ward V Councilmember

Eugene F. Kennedy

At-Large Council member

Johnie L. Higgs, Sr.

Acting City Administrator

Robert L. Ashton

Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

Chief of Police

Chris Cotillio

Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, the great president of Morehouse College and mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and thousands of Black college students, said: *"It must be borne in mind that the tragedy of life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach. It isn't a calamity to die with dreams unfulfilled, but it is a calamity not to dream. It is not a disaster to be unable to capture your ideal, but it is a disaster to have no ideal to capture. It is not a disgrace not to reach the stars, but it is a disgrace to have no stars to reach for. Not failure, but low aim is sin."*

As individuals, families and a community we must continue to have goals. Our desire should be to reach the zenith of our ambitions. Setting goals proves that the one with them has hope for the future. Forward progression necessitates that we set goals or have dreams of a hopeful future. Each day should be viewed as a new opportunity to reach our goals.

Many people set educational goals, financial goals, personal enrichment goals, spiritual goals and the like. They have a belief that they are able to reach their goals. They dream big dreams. They have big hearts. They have unlimited faith. They commit themselves to the struggle to make it happen. They don't give up. They don't faint during the time of adversity. They become true stalwarts of an idea.

However, sometimes there are those who try to get in our way from achieving our goals. They are naysayers, dream busters and haters. These people do everything they can to get you off course. But we can take advice from others, *"One of the lessons that I grew up with was to always stay true to yourself and never let what somebody says distract you from your goals. And so when I hear about negative and false attacks, I really don't invest any energy in them, because I know who I am," Michelle Obama.* Therefore, regardless of the trial or those who attempt to stop us we must keep our eyes on the prize and pursue our goals.

Likewise, we must continue to work toward making Seat Pleasant – A City of Excellence one of our goals. Our community will become that if we first start with the right mindset. Thought proceeds action. There is a scripture that teaches *"As a man thinks in his (her) heart; so is he (she)."* We should always be in the mode of thought to **want** our city to be Excellent and actively become engaged to ensure we do so. If we think that way and have a goal and dream of becoming that, then our actions will reflect that thought. We will ensure that our yards are kept clean and manicured. We will help to ensure trash does not accumulate in front of our homes. We will follow the codes of the city. If we do this we will become A City of Excellence.

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(MAYOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED)

As many of you are aware, I have been fighting since becoming your mayor to save the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department. This has been a very difficult fight. Many of you have responded affirmatively to my request to make calls, write letters and sign petitions to express your unequivocal support of maintaining the presence of the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department. To that end, you have an opportunity to express your concerns directly to the Prince George's County Fire Chief at his **Bi-Monthly Fire Chief's Community Forum**, which will be held on **Thursday, May 23, 2013, 6:30 pm** at the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department. I encourage your attendance and involvement by expressing your opinions about the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department. A light dinner will be served free of charge. Thank you.

Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department

COMMUNITY FORUM ON FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY Hosted by

The City of Seat Pleasant

Location: Seat Pleasant Fire Station

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

6305 Addison Road,

Capitol Heights, Maryland

Light Refreshments will be served.

RSVP to Diana Fennell at 301.583.1937



**RUSHERN L. BAKER, III, COUNTY EXECUTIVE • MARC S. BASHOOR, FIRE CHIEF
ORLANDO J. BEGO, PRESIDENT • KAREN M. COAKLEY, VICE PRESIDENT
9201 BASIL COURT, FOURTH FLOOR EAST, LARGO, MARYLAND 20774 • 301-883-5200**

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK



The City Council has introduced the following legislations in the month of April:

Ordinance O-13-09

Ordinance O-13-09 FOR the purpose of amending the 2012-2013 Budget of the City of Seat Pleasant, as enacted by Ordinance O-12-18, adopted on May 30, 2012 to account for the purchase of iPad tablets for the City Council, City Administrator, and City Clerk from funds allocated to the City Administration's budget.

Resolution R-13-16

Resolution R-13-16 of the Council of City of Seat Pleasant Approving the Forms of a Transaction Summary and Term Sheets relating to the City Center Project (Collectively, the "Term Sheets") for the certain documents referred to herein as the Ground Lease, The Master Lease, The Depositary Trust Agreement, The Facilities Management Agreement and the Power Purchase Agreements (Collectively, the "Documents"), Authorizing and Empowering the Mayor, on behalf of the City, to indicate the City's Approval of the Term Sheets as described herein; and Authorizing the City Center Project Committee, with the assistance of Legal Counsel, to negotiate the forms of the documents, and generally relating to the Term Sheets and the Documents.

Copies of legislation are available from the Office of the City Clerk at:

Seat Pleasant City 6301 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743-2125

MONTHLY MEETINGS : Work Session - Monday, May 6, 6:00 p.m.

Public Session - Monday, May 13, 7:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at: Seat Pleasant City Hall Council Chambers 6301 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, MD

If you desire to speak before the Council at the Public Session, please contact the City Clerk to register your concerns before the meeting.

Publication Mailing: The Gazette Newspaper has discontinued the FREE home delivery of the paper to each resident in the City of Seat Pleasant. However, they have expanded bulk delivery services to the following locations:

Seat Pleasant City Hall 6301 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743

Fairmount Heights Public Library 5904 Kolb Street Fairmount Heights, Maryland 20743

Safeway Stores, Inc. 6300 Central Avenue Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743

Seat Pleasant Activity Center 5720 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



A WORD FROM COUNCILMEMBER SIMMS

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the mothers a *Happy Mothers Day* and to encourage all residents to recognize and honor their mothers May 5th. Honor them for their dedication, commitment, sacrifice and most of all love.

"A mother is she who can take the place of all others but whose place no one can take"
Cardinal Mermillod

A WORD FROM COUNCILMEMBER KENNEDY

First of all, I would like to thank all those who took time out of their busy schedules to attend the Ward V meeting on April 18th. Your input is valuable to me. Secondly, I am looking for residents who are interested in improving the quality of life for our residents through recreational activities. I am in the process of restarting the Seat Pleasant Recreation Council which has since become inactive. If you are interested or want more information feel free to contact me at 301-704-4221 or 301-336-2780.





A WORD FROM COUNCILMEMBER STEPHENSON

PLEASE KEEP THESE DATES N MIND:

WALK & BIKE TO EXCELLENCE

Seat Pleasant Community Walking Group
3RD ANNUAL KICK-OFF EVENT

DATE: SATURDAY MAY 25, 2013

TIME: 9:00A.M. TO 11:30A.M.

START: SEAT PLEASANT CITY HALL - 6301 ADDISON RD

END: GOODWIN PARK- 311 68TH PLACE

WHO: FREE & OPEN TO EVERYONE!

ALL SPEEDS & EXPERIENCES WELCOME!

UNITE WITH COMMUNITY & IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH!

WEAR YOUR WALKING SHOES!

FRESH FRUIT AND WATER WILL BE PROVIDED BY
COUNCILWOMAN STEPHENSON

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
CITY HALL AT (301)336-2600 OR
COUNCILWOMAN ARETHA
STEPHENSON AT (240) 601-1037



Seat Pleasant "A City of Excellence"

WARD II COMMUNITY MEETING

Thursday, May 23, 2013

PLEASANT HOMES APARTMENTS COMMUNITY CENTER
6810 GREIG ST
SEAT PLEASANT, MD 20743

6:00P.M.-8:00P.M.

ALL CITIZENS OF SEAT PLEASANT ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL COUNCILWOMAN STEPHENSON
AT 240-601-1037.

TAX DIFFERENTIAL CONCEPT AND WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU

BY ROBERT ASHTON, CITY TREASURER

The purpose of this article is to highlight the legal basis behind the Tax Differential Concept and in the State of Maryland and to illustrate in the next newsletter its impact on homeowners' County real estate taxes.

Legal basis for the concept of the Tax Differential: Section 6-305 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland mandates that **Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties** meet annually with the governing bodies of municipal corporations to discuss the property tax rate to be set for assessments of property in the municipal corporations. If it is demonstrated that a municipal corporation performs services or programs in lieu of similar county services or programs, the governing body of the county **shall impose** the county property tax on assessments of property in the municipal corporation at a rate that is **less than the general county property tax rate**.

The section identified above instructs the counties noted to provide Property tax set-offs to homeowners to compensate for double taxation of municipal taxpayers occurring when both municipal and county property taxes are levied to fund similar or identical services. As a result, a number of Maryland counties compensate municipal tax payers with property tax set-offs through a tax rate differential. A tax rate differential results in a lower county property tax rate within the boundaries of a municipality. The major governmental services performed by municipalities that may result in tax set-offs include police protection, highways and street maintenance, sanitation and waste collection, planning and zoning services and recreation and parks services.

MAINTAINING SAFETY WHILE EXERCISING OUTDOORS

BY SEAT PLEASANT POLICE CHIEF CHRIS COTILLO

Outdoor activities and exercise are a great way to spend time outside and get active. It can be a great opportunity for a little peace and quiet and privacy, but for safety's sake always take someone with you.



One of the problems of staying in shape is finding the time to do it. People work, take care of families and have a long list of duties and responsibilities. This causes many of us to take advantage of any free time we can set aside, which usually means early in the morning and later in the evening. Unfortunately, criminals are well aware of this fact.

Being outside alone can be dangerous, especially when it is dark. Predators will patiently wait for individuals to pass by so they can catch them by surprise. The lack of light provides an ideal situation for them to hide and remain unseen until they attack. They have the element of surprise and can easily catch victims off guard especially if you're wearing headphones. Exercising with a partner will greatly reduce the chances of this happening to you. Most criminals prefer to prey on a person who is by their self and tend to shy away from groups of two or more.

Whenever you do go out, alone or with an exercise partner, always be on alert. Pay careful attention to your surroundings and avoid areas that are not well lit. You might enjoy listening to music while you exercise, but remember to keep the volume low enough that you can hear what's happening around you. A predator can easily sneak up from behind if they know you have neither seen nor heard them.

No matter how many precautions you take, it is possible you will encounter a thief, mugger or violent criminal while enjoying some outdoor activity. People who spend time outdoors regularly can learn to defend themselves from an attack by taking a martial arts class or carrying a self defense weapon such as a stick or pepper spray. These items can help you temporarily incapacitate the attacker so you will have an opportunity to get away and call the police.

OTHER POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS



At the Municipal Police Chief's Award Ceremony held on April 11, 2013, Officer Bryan Stevens received the City of Seat Pleasant Police Department Officer of the Year. Congratulations Officer Stevens!

CODE ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION

BULKY TRASH COLLECTION

All bulk trash is collected on Wednesday by appointment only. You must call Bates Trucking by 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday to be placed on the list. (Call 301-773-2069) You are only allowed three (3) large items. Residents please note if you don't call on Tuesday then you should not put any items out. If items are placed out and you're not on the pickup list you will be fined. All items for pickup should be placed out the night before. Any items that are placed out before dark the night before will receive a notice and are subject to a fine.

FYI – As a new resident of Maryland you must register your vehicle within 60 days of moving into Maryland. If you delay beyond 60 days, you will not be eligible for a tax credit for any titling tax paid in another state, and you may be subject to citation for having an out-of-state registration. Please contact the local MVA to insure

(CODE ENFORCEMENT CONTINUED)

that you follow all guidelines to properly obtain registration in the state of Maryland.

Dual registration means that a vehicle is titled and registered in Maryland and the vehicle owner also holds a registration in another state. By Maryland law, you must register your vehicle if it remains in Maryland for 60 (sixty) days or more within a calendar year, even if it is already titled and registered in another state.

As part of the dual registration process, both a Maryland Certificate of Title (and a Security Interest Filing (SIF), if a lien is involved) and a registration card are produced. You must carry both states' registration cards, and the license plates issued by both states must be placed in or on your vehicle (one set on the vehicle and one set in the trunk).

The only exceptions to Maryland's registration requirements are for those who are temporarily keeping the vehicle here because they are: a student; in the military; in a temporary work situation; or receiving extended medical treatment. In these cases, you must obtain a non-resident permit by submitting to the MVA an [Application for Nonresident Permit](#), VR-111.

As of April 1st the Seat Pleasant Code Enforcement department has started its first annual spring cleaning enforcement initiative. Here is a list of some of the violations that we have been inspecting throughout the City: Rusted fences, Chipped paint on the exterior, Exterior oxidation stains

INSERT SCREENS

During May 1 to September 30th every door, window and other outside opening required for ventilation of habitable rooms, food preparation areas, and food services are to be supplied with tightly fitting screens of not less 16 mesh per inch.

GRASS AND WEEDS

All property owners with grass exceeding 8 inches will have 72 hours to cut the grass. If the grass has not been cut within that time frame, with the exception of the weather, a municipal infraction in the amount of \$50 will be issued. Remember to cut the weeds and grass that grow along the fence line. Property owners with backyards abutting the street or alleys in the City are responsible for cutting the grass between the property line and the adjacent street.

A WORD FROM PUBLIC WORKS

Street Sweeping 2 day operation is in effect from March 1, 2013- October 31, 2013. It is important to adhere to the street sweeper schedule in order to remove the sand, salt and debris accumulated on your streets over the fall and winter months. These accumulations on your roads present not only health and safety issues but environmental ones as well. Did you know that a regular municipal street sweeping program is an effective means of reducing pollutants contained in storm water runoff? Also, are you aware that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers street sweeping to be a "Best Management Practice" in protecting water quality? To comply with the Clean Water Act, the EPA encourages municipalities to follow a comprehensive street sweeping schedule to reduce pollutants that accumulate on the streets and contribute to storm water runoff that pollutes surface waters. Effective sweeping programs minimize pollutants in storm water runoff by removing tons of debris and particles annually.



A WORD FROM CPAC WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

What ward do you live in our City? This is one question that I often ask residents and, surprisingly, many don't know. Our City of Excellence is divided among five wards with a council member over each; we also have two at-large seats. If you don't know your ward, call City Hall and ask. You need to know your ward and also know your council member. They represent you, lobby on your behalf, and make sure you have the things you need to live here. One great way you can personally get to know them and our Mayor is to attend the monthly city meetings which are held every second Monday at 7:00 p.m. Please go to these meetings so you can see what your council member is doing for you and to learn about the progress our City is making.

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(CPAC CONTINUED)

your council member is doing for you and to learn about the progress our City is making.

Your public safety tip for this month is to watch out for pedestrians in crosswalks and those who cross the street in unmarked places, like near the shopping centers on MLK. We all know that the easiest but most dangerous way to get from the CVS side of the street to the Family Dollar side is to cross anywhere; but it is not safe at all and we definitely don't want to see anyone hurt. One of the worst kinds of accidents is one that could have been prevented.

Help us help you. If there's anything you'd like CPAC (Seat Pleasant's Citizens for Public Safety Advisory Council) to discuss with the Seat Pleasant Police Department or Fire Department, please email us at cpac.seatpleasant@live.com. Let's keep Seat Pleasant safe!

SEASONAL ALLERGIES: NIP THEM IN THE BUD

By the Mayor Clinic Staff

Relieve seasonal allergies with these tried-and-true techniques.

Spring means flower buds and blooming trees — and if you're one of the millions of people who have seasonal allergies, it also means sneezing, congestion, runny nose and other bothersome symptoms. Seasonal allergies — also called hay fever and allergic rhinitis — can make you miserable. But before you settle for plastic flowers and artificial turf, try these simple strategies to keep seasonal allergies under control.

REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO ALLERGY TRIGGERS

To reduce your exposure to the things that trigger your allergy signs and symptoms (allergens):

- Stay indoors on dry, windy days — the best time to go outside is after a good rain, which helps clear pollen from the air.
- Delegate lawn mowing, weed pulling and other gardening chores that stir up allergens.
- Remove clothes you've worn outside; you may also want to shower to rinse pollen from your skin and hair.
- Don't hang laundry outside — pollen can stick to sheets and towels.
- Wear a dust mask if you do outside chores.



TAKE EXTRA STEPS WHEN POLLEN COUNTS ARE HIGH

Seasonal allergy signs and symptoms can flare up when there's a lot of pollen in the air. These steps can help you reduce your exposure:

- Check your local TV or radio station, your local newspaper, or the Internet for pollen forecasts and current pollen levels.
- If high pollen counts are forecasted, start taking allergy medications before your symptoms start.
- Close doors and windows at night or any other time when pollen counts are high.
- Avoid outdoor activity in the early morning when pollen counts are highest.

KEEP INDOOR AIR CLEAN

There's no miracle product that can eliminate all allergens from the air in your home, but these suggestions may help:

- Use the air conditioning in your house and car.
- If you have forced air heating or air conditioning in your house, use high-efficiency filters and follow regular maintenance schedules.
- Keep indoor air dry with a dehumidifier.
- Use a portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter in your bedroom.
- Clean floors often with a vacuum cleaner that has a HEPA filter.

There are also over-the-counter medications available to ease your symptoms and if symptoms are more severe see your doctor.

City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SOUTHERN MARYLAND
PERMIT #235



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

FROM THE MAYOR, COUNCIL AND
STAFF OF THE CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT

"A City of Excellence"